United Nations E/2010/L.20

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
15 July 2010

Original: English

Substantive session of 2010
New York, 28 June-23 July 2010
Agenda item 6 (b)
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Yemen:* draft resolution

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2]

Recalling also the declaration[3] adopted by the Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, in which they recommitted themselves to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development,

Reaffirming the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2010 on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women",[4]

Recalling Council resolution 2009/31 of 31 July 2009 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

---

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 61/1.

[4] E/2010/L.8; the final text will be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/65/3/Rev.1), chap. III.

Please recycle

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 63/227 of 19 December 2008 and 64/213 of 21 December 2009, in which the Assembly decided to convene, at a high level in 2011, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Noting the progress made in the preparatory process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the country, regional and global levels,

Welcoming the outcomes of the Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting[5] and the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue[6] on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, in which the Conference endorsed the outcome of the Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting,

Recalling also resolution 66/3 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in which the Commission endorsed the outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue,

Emphasizing that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should strengthen concerted global actions in support of the least developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[7]

2. *Notes* the economic and social progress of many of the least developed countries in recent years, which has led to a number of them proceeding towards graduation from the list of the least developed countries and some of them being on track to achieving the growth and universal primary enrolment targets of the Programme of Action by 2010;

3. *Remains concerned* about the uneven and insufficient progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action, especially with respect to, inter alia, the alleviation of poverty, combating of hunger, achievement of gender equality and reduction of maternal mortality;

4. *Recognizes* that many of the efforts of the least developed countries could not be realized owing to resource constraints which were mainly due to failure to receive the flow of promised official development assistance from development partners;

5. *Expresses concern* that, despite efforts to reduce poverty during the decade 2001-2010, the severity and persistence of poverty remains a serious challenge for the least developed countries and calls for a renewed and strengthened global partnership for the development of the least developed countries in the context of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

---

[5] E/ECA/COE/29/21-AU/CAMEF/EXP/21(V).

[6] E/ESCAP/66/6.

[7] A/65/80-E/2010/77.

6. *Also expresses concern* that the economic and social progress made so far by the least developed countries towards achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, is now threatened by the continuing severe impact of multiple global crises, such as the economic and financial crises, concerns regarding food security, the energy crisis and the uneven impacts of climate change and resolves to take appropriate policy measures, both in the short and long term, and the actions necessary to enable the least developed countries to overcome the negative impacts created by these crises;

7. *Remains concerned* about the continuing effects of the food crisis and continued food insecurity on the least developed countries and that an increasing number of people are at risk of malnutrition, in particular children and women, and in this regard calls for refocused attention on agricultural development to improve agricultural production and promote food security through increased funding to agriculture from domestic and international sources;

8. *Notes* that, although official development assistance to the least developed countries has increased during the current decade, most donations remain below the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product set by the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and thus current levels of official development assistance are inadequate to fill the huge financing gap, and in this regard calls on donor countries to increase aid to the least developed countries and to target it to productive sectors that have a greater impact on development, employment creation and poverty reduction, including the empowerment of women;

9. *Recognizes* that the least developed countries are highly affected and threatened by the effects of climate change and urges developed countries to honour the commitments made to provide new and additional resources for climate change mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and capacity-building, taking into consideration the criteria set in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and for post-disaster rehabilitation, including addressing the needs of persons affected by environmental damage and displaced as a result of natural disasters;

10. *Acknowledges* that the least developed countries have been experiencing and will experience increasing socio-economic and environmental loss and damage from the adverse impact of climate change and that the adaptation and mitigation fund should be over and above the existing official development assistance commitments;

11. *Recognizes* the important role that foreign direct investment can play in the augmentation of domestic savings, generation of employment and transfer of technology, expresses concern that flows of foreign direct investment remain concentrated on a few of the least developed countries, and calls for special measures to support the least developed countries in attracting inflows of foreign direct investment and channelling them to priority sectors;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made to address the debt problem of the least developed countries, including through the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, expresses concern that debt sustainability and indebtedness remain serious challenges for the least developed countries, and in this regard stresses the need to continue to take effective measures,

preferably within the existing frameworks, to address the debt problems of the least developed countries, including through cancellation of the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by least developed countries to creditors, both public and private;

13. *Calls upon* developed countries and the developing countries in a position to do so to provide duty-free and quota-free market access for all products of all least developed countries;

14. *Calls* for an early, ambitious, comprehensive, balanced, equitable and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations;

15. *Expresses concern* that non-tariff measures, including subsidies, that are inconsistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, constitute a significant market entry barrier for the least developed countries and undermine their capacity to benefit fully from preferential trading arrangements and calls on developed countries to remove them and to implement more transparent and simplified rules of origin for the products of the least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization rules;

16. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and development and emphasizes the importance of liberalization of labour movement from the least developed countries, consistent with national requirements;

17. *Stresses* that investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth and that while all Millennium Development Goals are interlinked and should be dealt with in a holistic manner, achieving Millennium Development Goal 3 is critical to the achievement of many of the Goals, calls for increased, where necessary, resources, both human and financial, particularly to the least developed countries, to support the implementation of gender-sensitive policies and programmes and for improved tracking and monitoring of expenditures allocated for the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming, including through undertaking gender-responsive budget planning, allocation and revenue raising, and encourages the integration of gender perspectives in aid modalities and efforts to enhance aid delivery mechanisms;

18. *Calls on* all development partners, including relevant organizations of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions, to make concerted efforts and adopt urgent measures with a view to enabling the least developed countries to meet all the Millennium Development Goals targets by 2015;

19. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be convened in Istanbul in 2011, for defining a new generation of ambitious, comprehensive, targeted and results-oriented support measures to establish a new partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners for the next decade, with effective arrangements for follow-up, review and monitoring of the implementation of the new programme of action for the least developed countries;

20. *Invites* the least developed countries and their development partners to continue to remain fully engaged in the preparatory process in order to ensure the successful outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

21. *Requests* the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide the necessary support for and actively contribute to the preparatory process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Conference itself, including through the organization of thematic pre-conference and parallel events;

22. *Expresses its concern* about the insufficiency of resources in the trust fund for the least developed countries and while expressing its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions, invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the trust fund to support the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in both the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

23. *Recognizes* the importance of the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including parliaments, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to the Conference and its preparatory process, stresses in this regard the need for their active participation, including those from the least developed countries, and invites donors to make sufficient contributions for that purpose;

24. *Welcomes with appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Turkey to host the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul from 30 May to 3 June 2011;

25. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social and related fields in order to ensure follow-up of their development in the broader context of the world economy and contribute to preventing their marginalization while promoting their further integration into the world economy;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a ten-year comprehensive report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, identifying, inter alia, bottlenecks, resource requirements and resource gaps in achieving the set objectives of the Programme of Action.